

Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 W
----- 075028

R 011531Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8214

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, DM

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BENIN

REF (A) STATE 49275, (B) COTONOU 300, (C) COTONOU 155,

1. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO ACCUSATIONS MADE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN NIGERIAN COUP IN BENINESE PRESS OR IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. AS DEPT AWARE, IN ITS PROPAGANDA OUTPUT, GPRB RARELY NAMES SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. THE NIGERIAN COUP IS BLAMED ON "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND ITS LOCAL AGENTS".

2. THE DECLARATION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF BENIN ON THE COUP ISSUED FEB 18 WAS THE BASIC PROPAGANDA PIECE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE PRESS AND FOR SEVERAL DAYS ON THE RADIO. THE DECLARATION PLAYED UP NIGERIA'S LEADING ROLE IN FAVOR OF THE MPLA IN ANGOLA, AND BEGAN WITH QUOTE FROM A JAN 29 SPEECH BY PRES KEREKOU ON ANGOLA IN WHICH HE SAID, "AFTER THE CRUSHING FAILURE OF IMPERIALISM IN ASIA AND ELSEWHERE, THE FUTURE OF OUR...CONTINENT IS AT THE HEART OF THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE IMPERIALIST POWERS" (SEE REF C). IT STATED THAT "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM COULD NOT TOLERATE THE BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL AND AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA". MURTALA, THE PARTY STATEMENT

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CONTINUED, WAS ASSASSINATED BY "PAWNS OF IMPERIALISM PRE-

TENDING TO BE YOUNG REVOLUTIONARIES". THE COUP PICTURED AS PART OF THE "PRESENT STRATEGY OF REACTIONARY AND CAPITALIST FORCES OF THE WORLD WHICH OPPOSE THE REVOLUTIONARY CURRENT IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD."

3. WITH THE REFERENCES TO THE FAILURES IN ASIA AND THE JUXAPOSITION OF COMMENTS ON ANGOLA, IT IS EASY TO IMPUTE THAT THE GPRB WAS BLAMING THE US, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER SPECIFICALLY DONE SO.
CHESHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ANTIIMPERIALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0049
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603109/aaaadrwm.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 49275, 76 COTONOU 300, 76 COTONOU 155
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <26 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BENIN
TAGS: PFOR, DM, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006